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DE RUEHSG #0170/01 0252032
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8311
INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 1432
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 3029
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 2856
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 4439
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 4411
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 0990
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 3160
RUEHLA/AMCONSUL BARCELONA 0020
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHMFISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 SANTIAGO 000170

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/24/2016

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [SOCI](#) [PINR](#) [CL](#)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT-ELECT BACHELET: ASSERTING INDEPENDENCE

REF: A. SANTIAGO 00094

[1](#)B. 05 SANTIAGO 02495

Classified By: Ambassador Craig Kelly. Reasons: 1.4 (b and d).

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: President-elect Michelle Bachelet has gotten off to a quietly assertive start following her victory over Alianza opposition's

Bachelet's Cabinet

[1](#)2. (C) The composition of Bachelet's 18-member cabinet is a main topic of discussion in Chile. Most observers look to its composition as a si

[1](#)3. (U) During the week of January 23-27, Bachelet is scheduled to meet with the presidents of the four parties that make up the Concertacion.

[1](#)4. (C) In a lunch with Embassy officers on January 23, Party for Democracy (PPD) Deputy (and recently elected Senator for Santiago west) Guidc

Early Priorities

[1](#)5. (U) Bachelet has listed several domestic (and a few foreign policy) issues she intends to focus on after assuming office on March 11. The

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--Increasing public security, including forming a new Ministry for Public Security

--Improving relations with Chile's neighbors and Latin America

--Reform of the Foreign Ministry (including the creation of a deputy position for international trade)

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--Strengthening of environmental protections, including the creation of a minister-level position for environmental affairs and,

--educational reform, with a focus on universal education for pre-school and elementary-level education.

Comment

[1](#)6. (C) One week after Bachelet's election victory, the mood in Chile is calm, with an air of expectation for her cabinet choices. Even some

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